

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 119307

O R 031836Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0885
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 13009

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PFOR US UK FR UR GW GE

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR EXCHANGE OF TELEGRAMS ON
QA ANNIVERSARY

REFS: (A) STATE 190413; (B) BONN 12871;
(C) STATE 185023

SUMMARY: AUGUST 3 BONN GROUP CONSIDERATION
OF SOVIET PROPOSAL ENDED WITH CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT
EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES WILL TAKE PLACE. US, UK, AND FRG
REPS GENERALLY AGREED THAT IDENTICAL TEXTS WERE
PREFERABLE, WHILE PARIS HAD INSTRUCTED THAT IT IS ONLY
NECESSARY TO AGREE ON THE SAME GENERAL LINE OF TEXT.
THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT MADE FOLLOW-UP APPROACHES IN PARIS
OR LONDON. END SUMMARY.

1. UK REP (HITCH) IN AUGUST 3 BONN GROUP MEETING GAVE
HIS CURRENT POSITION AS FOLLOWS:

-- HE HAS NO INSTRUCTIONS SINCE MATTER HAS NOT
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GONE "AS HIGH AS IT NEEDS TO GO" IN FCO;

-- IN IDEAL WORLD, UK WOULD WISH TO KILL SOVIET
IDEA;

-- SOVIET POINTS MADE TO WASHINGTON PUT DIFFERENT
LIGHT ON MATTER SINCE USSR FORTHCOMINGNESS MEANS THEY
PERHAPS WILLING TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. HITCH SAID HE
FORESAW A SCENARIO ON FOLLOWING LINES: (A) WE TELL
SOVIETS WE AGREE IN PRINCIPLE WITH EXCHANGE AND HAVE
NO SERIOUS OBJECTIONS TO SOVIET POINTS; (B) WE TELL
SOVIETS AT SAME TIME THAT WE STILL CONSIDERING WHAT WE
WOULD SAY; AND (C) WE WOULD TELL SOVIETS OF OUR
ACTUAL TEXT ONLY AT RELATIVELY LATE MOMENT.

2. FRG REP (HENZE) SAID HE HAD NO DEFINITIVE
INSTRUCTIONS BUT STATE SECRETARY GEHLHOFF, WHO IS
ACTING MINISTER, "FEELS IF ALLIES THINK YOU CANNOT
REFUSE THE SOVIET PROPOSAL, WE CANNOT OBJECT TO THAT."

3. FRENCH REP (LASSUS) REPORTED HIS INSTRUCTIONS FROM
PARIS AS FOLLOWS:

-- IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO HAVE IDENTICAL TEXTS,
EVEN ON ALLIED SIDE, BUT ONLY SAME LINE WHICH SHOULD
BE DEVELOPED IN BONN GROUP;

-- TEXT SHOULD BE LIMITED TO TWO BASIC POINTS:
(A) THE QA HAS CONTRIBUTED TO DETENTE IN EUROPE;
AND (B) THE NECESSITY OF STRICT APPLICATION OF ALL QA
PROVISIONS;

-- TEXTS WOULD BE EXCHANGED BY ALL FOUR WITH ALL
FOUR; AND

-- ANY PRELIMINARY CONTACTS WITH SOVIETS SHOULD BE
STRICTLY LIMITED TO COORDINATION OF TEXTS AND NOT GO
INTO DISCUSSION OF APPLICATION OF QA.

4. US REP MADE PRESENTATION DRAWING FROM REF (A). HE
EMPHASIZED DESIRE FOR IDENTICAL TEXTS IN ORDER TO AVOID
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SPECULATION ON MEANING OF DIFFERENCES IN TEXTS AND THE
POSSIBILITY THAT SOME MIGHT FIND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
ALLIES AND USSR EVEN WHERE NONE EXIST. THE POSSIBILITY
THAT ONE SIDE MIGHT FEEL COMPELLED TO REBUT THE OTHER'S
MESSAGE MUST ALSO BE AVOIDED. COORDINATION WITH
SOVIETS THUS IS ESSENTIAL, AND SHOULD BE LIMITED AS
STATED IN FRENCH INSTRUCTIONS. UK SCENARIO WAS FAULTY
IN THAT MESSAGES WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE BALANCED AND A

REBUTTAL SITUATION WOULD BE LIKELY.

5. US REP SAID HE HAD ASSEMBLED A TEXT WHICH USED

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O R 031836Z AUG 76
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0886
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 03 BONN 13009

EXDIS

PARTS FROM TEXTS CIRCULATED BY UK AND FRENCH REPS AND
INCORPORATED SOVIET POINTS. IDEA WAS TO INCLUDE ALL
SOVIET POINTS WHICH DID NOT TROUBLE ALLIES AND FRG
IN ORDER TO AVOID A NEGOTIATION WITH THE SOVIETS.
(TEXT GIVEN PARA NINE BELOW.)

6. UK REP MADE SEVERAL COUNTER-SUGGESTIONS WHICH HAD
EFFECT OF CUTTING US-ASSEMBLED DRAFT TO BARE SUBSTANCE.
(UK TEXT GIVEN PARA TEN BELOW.) US REP SAID HE COULD
SEE NO REASON FOR UK EXCISIONS SINCE THE REMOVED
PORTIONS WERE NOT HARMFUL TO ALLIES OR FRG AND
EXCISIONS THEMSELVES COULD LEAD TO UNWANTED NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THE SOVIETS.

7. UK REP SAID HE WOULD FLOAT IDEA WITH LONDON OF
HAVING THE STATE DEPARTMENT COORDINATE FOR THE ALLIES
WITH THE SOVIETS. THE FACT THAT THE SOVIET POINTS WERE

PASSED IN WASHINGTON MIGHT BE A SIGNAL THAT MOSCOW WISHES THIS DONE. SUCH COORDINATION WOULD BE TIDY. FRENCH REP SAID THAT PRESENT INSTRUCTIONS FROM PARIS WOULD PRECLUDE THIS.

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8. UPSHOT OF BONN GROUP DISCUSSION IS AS FOLLOWS:

-- THERE IS A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF ALL REPS THAT AN EXCHANGE WILL TAKE PLACE;

-- THE US-ASSEMBLED TEXT OR SOMETHING VERY MUCH LIKE IT WILL PROBABLY BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE FRG AND BRITISH;

-- WE DO NOT KNOW HOW PARIS WILL REACT. LASSUS IS FILLING IN FOR BOISSIEU (ON VACATION) AND HAS RELATIVELY LITTLE LATITUDE. ALSO, LASSUS HAS JUST COME BACK FROM A STAY IN THE HOSPITAL AND WAS NOT IN ON EARLIER DISCUSSIONS OF THIS MATTER.

-- ALL REPS AGREE THAT EXCHANGES AMONG ALL FOUR ARE APPROPRIATE;

-- THE QUESTION OF COORDINATION WITH THE SOVIETS REMAINS THE TRICKIEST ASPECT.

-- BECAUSE OF FRENCH INSTRUCTIONS, ALL REPS AGREED TO SEEK GUIDANCE.

9. US-ASSEMBLED DRAFT. BEGIN TEXT.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNATURE OF THE QA ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1971, IN BERLIN BY REPRESENTATIVES OF FRANCE, THE UK, THE US, AND THE USSR, THE (BLANK) GOVERNMENT WISHES TO NOTE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE AGREEMENT AS AN IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT OF THE POLICY OF RELAXATION OF TENSIONS.

DUE LARGELY TO THE AGREEMENT, AND THE ATTITUDES OF THE CONCERNED STATES WHICH MADE IT POSSIBLE, THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN REMOVING TENSION FROM AN AREA WHICH WAS A MAJOR FOCAL POINT OF DIFFICULTIES FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES. THE RESULTING PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENTS OF THE SITUATION HAVE BEEN TO THE BENEFIT OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE.

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0887

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T SECTION 03 OF 03 BONN 13009

EXDIS

STRICT OBSERVANCE AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL
THE PROVISIONS OF THE QA ARE THE SUREST MEANS OF
FURTHER IMPROVING THE SITUATION SO THAT THE CITY
DEVELOPS AS A SYMBOL OF PEACE AND RELAXATION OF TENSION
IN EUROPE.

END TEXT.

10. UK COUNTER-DRAFT. BEGIN TEXT.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SIGNATURE OF THE QA ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1971, IN BERLIN BY
REPRESENTATIVES OF FRANCE, THE UK, THE US, AND THE
USSR, THE (BLANK) GOVERNMENT NOTES THE CONTRIBUTION
OF THE AGREEMENT TO THE RELAXATION OF TENSION IN
EUROPE.

THE PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SITUATION
BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE AGREEMENT HAVE BENEFITED MILLIONS
OF PEOPLE.

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STRICT OBSERVANCE AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL
THE PROVISIONS OF THE QA ARE THE SUREST MEANS OF
FURTHER IMPROVING THE SITUATION IN THE REGION.
END TEXT.
HILLENBRAND.

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